

Patent
10/619,045

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5-6, 9-16 and 19-24 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 12, 21 and 24 have been amended herein to incorporate the allowable limitations of now canceled Claims 8 and 18 (and any intervening claims). Dependent Claims 3-4, 7-8 and 17-18 have been canceled. Claims 1, 12, 21 and 24 are independent.

The Examiner kindly noted in paragraph 7 of the Office Action that Claims 8 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1, 2, 9-14, 16-17, 19-21 and 23 were rejected under 35 USC 102(c) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,272,598 (Arlitt) and Claims 2, 4-7, 15, 22 and 24 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arlitt in view of US Patent 6,295,580 (Sturges). Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed. However, in order to place the application clearly in condition for allowance, each of independent Claims 1, 12, 21 and 24 has been amended to recite the limitations of now canceled Claims 8 and 18 (and any intervening claims), indicated to be allowable over the art of record.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims are now in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicants' attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,


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